

JRM:Imp 4/18/05

PATENT
Attorney's Matter No. P0416**REMARKS**

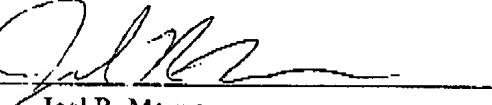
Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement. In the field of digital watermarking technology, the US Patent Office routinely examines claims directed to embedding a digital watermark and related methods for reading the digital watermark in the same application. In fact, the Examiner of this application has previously examined two patents issued to the assignee of this application that contain both embedding and reading or decoding methods. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,714,683 includes embedding and decoding methods, and U.S. Patent No. 6,683,966 includes embedding and decoding methods. Thus, even though embedding and reading methods may be separately usable, Applicant respectfully requests the Office to follow past practice and examine all of the pending claims in a single application.

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Customer Number 23735Telephone: 503-469-4800
FAX: 503-469-4777

Respectfully submitted,

DIGIMARC CORPORATION

By 
Joel R. Meyer
Registration No. 37,677